Although Mrs. Seymour was naturally prejudiced where Charles Readers work was concerned, she only spoke the truth, pardonably exaggerated, about the part of Philippa Chester. I know no part which is a patch on it for effectiveness ; yet there is little in it of the stuff which endures. The play itself was too unbusiness like ever to become a classic.

Not for years afterwards did I find out that I was not the "first choice" for Portia. The Bancrofts had tried the KendaJs first, with the idea of making a double engagement; but the negotiations failed. Perhaps the rivalry between Mrs. Kendal and me might have become of more significance had she appeared as Portia at the Prince of Wales's and preferred Shakespeare to domestic comedy. In after years she played Rosalind— I never did, alas!—and quite recently acted with me in " The Merry Wives of Windsor "; but the best of her fame will always be associated with such plays as " The Squire/', " The Ironmaster/' " Lady Clancarty," and many more plays of that type. When she played with me in Shakespeare she laughingly challenged me to come and play with her in a modern piece, a domestic play, and I said, " Done!" but it has not been done yet, although in Mrs. Clifford's "The Likeness of the Night" there was a good medium for the experiment I found Mrs. Kendal wonderful to act with. No other English actress has such extraordinary skill. Of course, people have said we are jealous of each other. " Ellen Terry Acts with Lifelong Enemy/[1] proclaimed an American newspaper

in five-inch type, when we played together as Mistress Page and Mistress Ford in Mr. Tree's Coronation production of " The Merry Wives of Windsor." But the enmity did not seern to worry us as much as the newspaper men over the Atlantic had represented.

It was during this engagement in 1903 that a young